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## Civil Service

# State Dept. 'Empire' Peril to Our Security

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Hearst Headline Service

The Foreign Service Department is often referred to as "the last empire in government."

The reason given for such a description is that Foreign Service is the last government agency to have its inner cliques whose members are intensely loyal to each other — more so, it is said, than to the United States.

Prior to World War II, many governmental agencies had and were run by cliques, but they have since disappeared in all, or nearly all, except Foreign Service.

The case of Stephen A. Koczak, a former Foreign Service officer who has been "selected out" (fired) and is suing for reinstatement, brings up questions that affect the security of the nation.

Koczak, who is 48 years old and has served 20 years as a career Foreign Service officer, claims to be a victim of the clique system in a most subversive manner.

### WHEN IT BEGAN

It all began, he says, in 1961 while he was stationed in West Berlin. According to Koczak, his superior of his had previously been ordered by Foreign Service to leave his station in Warsaw because of indiscretions with a Polish woman.

"Through a complete fluke, instead of being sent home he was transferred to Berlin," the former career officer declares.

After going there, the man, according to Koczak, would make fairly regular trips to East Berlin (during the time the wall was being built) and place telephone calls to Warsaw. The reason for the trips, he says, was to keep the calls from being monitored by the CIA and other security agencies.

"I had an oath of office to keep and I told his superior about the telephone calls," Koczak explains.

### FALSE REPORTS

Instead of action being taken against the superior, action was taken against Koczak, according to his story. In addition, the superior who made the calls found out that Koczak told on him, and proceeded to make out false efficiency reports concerning Koczak, who declares he has never been able to see the reports to this day.

As a result, Koczak's rating as a Foreign Service officer dropped from among the highest 10 per cent to the lowest category.

With the sudden and dramatic drop of his rating, he appeared before a 3-man panel for a closed hearing at which he had no legal counsel, was not allowed to call witnesses for his defense, and was not allowed to question the witnesses appearing against him.

All this, says Koczak, a cum laude graduate of Harvard, resulted in his being "selected out" from the service in January of this year. Koczak, who now lives on a pension of slightly more than \$6,000 annually,

instead of his former annual salary of \$18,000, has now engaged the services of a private attorney in his battle for reinstatement.

### GIVEN HELP

Many persons, both in and out of government, are coming to his aid, and at least one publication, the Government Employees' Exchange, has been telling his side of the story.

If wrong has been done to Koczak, it should be rectified, but the thing that should concern each and every one of us is that, if what Koczak says is factual, false and inaccurate reports are being made on matters most vital to our security. These would include the reports to Secretary of State Dean Rusk and President Johnson.

Koczak is demanding a public hearing on his case. Whether it is granted or not, he at least should be represented by counsel and be allowed to examine the reports about him which he claims are false.

It is understandable that the State Department would want matters that would involve national security to remain behind closed doors. However, a military man accused of a crime is given legal counsel at his court martial. A Foreign Service officer should receive the same right.

Also, when the security of the nation is involved, truth and accuracy should come first, regardless of the consequences to any "empire" or clique within a government agency.

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